

meeting, also under the presidency of the Mayor, and at the Lyceum Theatre, for the purpose of eliciting an expression of popular opinion upon the proposal which we alluded to in last week's notes for the establishment of a steam postal line to Europe, via Panama and New Zealand. Here all was unanimity. Resolutions were passed to the effect that it behooved the Government of this colony to secure for itself the whole advantage of this contract, including the right of making sub-contracts with the other Australian colonies. This is the opinion

which we have expressed in all quarters, and we are glad to perceive from an article republished in this morning's *Herald*, from the *Melbourne Argus*, that our southern neighbours are inclined to co-operate with us warmly; resting satisfied with the advantage which they have secured by Melbourne being made the point of arrival and departure of the present line. One of the resolutions passed at the meeting alluded to was a statement of the need for maintaining a semi-monthly

mail by way of Suva and Panama alternately. It was stated by Mr. Wetton, the agent of the West Indian Mail Company, through whom this offer had come, that it is proposed to have a station upon one of the South Sea Islands, whereon, in the event of any unforeseen delays, passengers might conveniently remain until the arrival of the next mail steamer. But the particular island was not named. If this has not been determined we are inclined to think that, for many reasons, one of the Samoan ports will be found most suitable. There was a second public meeting on Wednesday.

evening, under the presidency of Mr. Norton, for the purpose of hearing from Mr. Charles Cowper, one of the City members, an account of his stewardship. The speech of Mr. Cowper was a very long one, and it

into all the questions of last session, and into the formation, policy, and retirement from power of the Ministry which had been formed under his leadership. Speeches were also made by other Members of Parliament then present, and resolutions were passed affirming of confidence in Mr. Cowper's political integrity and principles.

Besides these public meetings there have been two others which require to be noticed. The first of them was held on Thursday, at the Exchange, and had for its object, the adoption of preliminary measures for the presentation of a memorial to Mr. W. M. Manning, on his retirement from office.

Mr. Knox, a member of the Legislative Council, was called to the chair, and the meeting was addressed by many gentlemen, all bearing strong testimony to the public ability and private worth of Mr. Manning. The determination arrived at was to raise a subscription for presenting Mr. Manning with a piece of plate, and for procuring his portrait—painted in the same style as that of Mr. Thomson (late Colonial Secretary), also procured by subscription. The other public meeting

was held last evening under the presidency of the Chief Justice, Sir Alfred Stephen, for the purpose of adopting measures for the erection of a Temperance Hall, and otherwise extending the operation of the

Mr. Nichols, who was spoken of last week as the Solicitor-General elect, has since then suffered from serious illness, and Mr. Wise is now spoken of. Mr. Wise is a member of the Legislative Council, and is a barrister of very respectable standing, although a young colonist. It is also reported that Mr. George Macleay is to divide with Mr. Haw the minister

The first turf of an extension of the Southern line from Liverpool to Campbellton was tacked on Thursday without any complications or formalities.

An announcement has been made of an intended new scientific journal, or rather magazine, under the joint auspices of the Philosophical Society, and of the recently formed Association for the encouragement of Agricultural and Horticultural Improvement. There is a great need for such a publication; and we believe that the time has come when it might be issued without risk of that pecuniary loss which

has hitherto attended the publication of this class of works in New South Wales. The example set by Sir William Denison has created a taste for scientific enquiry. Even the members of the two societies already named are numerous enough and

zealous enough, we should imagine, to support a journal devoted to the cause in which they are engaged. But there are a large class of persons, both here and elsewhere, to whom such papers as this magazine would contain, possess a peculiar interest. But the strongest recommendation of all for the establishment of such a work is, that until this is done, the scientific associations of New South Wales

A public dinner and a purse containing £220 have been given to Mr. Robertson, the member for Phillip, Brisbane, and Bligh. The dinner took place at the Woolpack Inn, Scone, on Thursday the 23rd ultimo, but the proceedings on that occasion were not reported until the present week. The speech of Mr. Robertson

The Australian Benevolent Society of Blues held their half-yearly general meeting on Thursday last at the Freemasons' Hotel. This society is little known to the public. Its objects are for the temporary assistance, by loans or otherwise, of those educated in the ancient foundation of Christ's Hospital (commonly known as the Blue Coat School), London. The society has the Governor-General for its patron, and many influential citizens on its member-roll; its growth at present is enormous.

On Thursday evening, in accordance with intentions

previously expressed by advertisement and otherwise, Mr. E. C. Weekes, M.P., met the electors of the Northumberland Boroughs, at the court-house, East Maitland, for the purpose of "rendering an account of his stewardship." The room was but partially filled at the appointed time; but before the close of the meeting the audience had greatly increased. The hon. member was listened to with great attention throughout, and frequent expressions of approval followed the utterance of his sentiments. On entering the room, Mr. Weekes was received with loud cheers. On the

Mr. Weckes said, it was with feelings of great pleasure that he was present there that evening. He considered it a very desirable and salutary step for all representatives to take to meet their constituents during the recess that followed each parliamentary session. 1857

session. The mouse met on the 22nd of May, 1896, and was prorogued on the 18th of March, 1897; the session was one of the longest, he might say, ever known. Business was transacted on 105 days; the House had sat 769 hours; the average length of each sitting had been 7 hours 19 minutes, and the longest sitting had been 15 hours 45 minutes. It would be seen, then, that to discharge the duties of such a session was no child's play; and nothing but the hope of being useful, of doing what he owed to his constituents, and what they had a right to demand of him, could make

compensation for such a wearing of energy and absorption of time. And so little had been the return. He trusted, however, that the next sessions would be more profitable, and that we should really begin to reap some of the advantages of Responsible Government. Responsible Government was introduced under peculiar circumstances. When it was introduced, the Government was in the hands of men in the receipt of large salaries, and to whom large—profrigately large—

persons had been voted on their leaving office on political grounds; and what did these men, who owed so much to the country, but hesitate, and shrink from taking any step, when responsible Government was first introduced? They refused to take the helm, and left the barque of State to be piloted by the Governor alone. They preserved the various offices they held, but refused to take office as responsible ministers in the Executive Council. He could not but attribute this to discreditable motives as to the desire to preserve their pensions from all jeopardy or risk. He could have forgiven aught else, but not this.

such legislation under such circumstances. There was only one exception to these remarks—the present Attorney-General, Mr. Manning. He pursued a different line of conduct from the others. He said that he believed his colleagues hesitated because of their fear for their pensions, but that he would not let those considerations weigh with him. He would cast him self upon the people of the country, and trust that they would see him righted. Responsible Government

should have been introduced by the old administration; they should have shown that they had no fears for their return, and gone before the country. The consequence was that there were Ministers without their holding any responsible office. There was the Attorney-General that was to be sitting in one

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none but children whose parents are members of the Church of England, and who attend such schools. The education given in Denominational schools ought to be bridgely separate. But, as we have before remarked, it is impossible to set strictly up to this principle. It is practically ignored. We give the following examples:—The first school is situated in the interior, where three schools formerly existed—one National, one Episcopalian, and one Roman Catholic. For some reason or other, the last was discontinued, and, in pursuance of a compact between the other two, the Episcopalian school was transferred over to the Church of England school. We apprehend that the Legislature does not vote money for the Church of England, to educate Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic children, although the latter two are admitted as openly regular by the heads of the Church of England. We find in page 5, of the "Rules for the Church of England Schools of the Middle District," that "they have been drawn up by the direction of the Bishops of the Province of Australia, and have received the approval, and are published by their authority," the following rule with which "A." of course must be acquainted:—

"That the children of other denominations will be admitted to the Church of England schools, and be allowed to partake of the benefit of the complete Church education."

In other words, children of other denominations will be admitted to the Church of England schools, and be taught doctrines which their parents consider erroneous. The rule continues in these words—"A." who may withdraw from any portion of it, being allowed to retire during any lessons which their parents should wish in writing when they enter their children at school."

This part of the rule is intended to meet the difficulty just mentioned. It means that children may retire during the period of religious instruction, and so avoid the danger of being taught doctrines which their parents consider erroneous. The rule continues in these words—"A." who may withdraw from any portion of it, being allowed to retire during any lessons which their parents should wish in writing when they enter their children at school."

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One more point we have to notice. "A." alludes to the desirableness of obtaining an "amiable and useful education." It is a curious question, which, if it were to be put to the vote, would be decided by his opponents reproaches and epithets of a most injurious character. The National system is irreligious, and everything else that is bad; its teachers, "no matter how good," are "not to be trusted," and the report on the National Board for its "conduct in the use of public money." Now, as it is so skillful in applying damaging expressions, we begin to ask "A." who he would style a transaction of this nature—Funds are raised for the Legislature, and the money is expended on education; the money is applied in supporting a secular system; money is granted for a specific purpose and expended upon another. What we wish to know is, whether, in his severe judgment, he would call the obtaining public money under false pretences?

THE NATIONAL TRACKERS.

THE GREAT SOAP AND CANDLE QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald.

Sir,—Will you admit a short notice from a man with a large family, whose wants she has to provide for her own industry, into your columns? *The Herald* has recently published a variety of communications addressed to the Legislature, and the Editor has been good enough to imagine, of letting the public see the good and bad sense written and spoken by Messrs. Allen, Israel, and Co., the soap and candle makers. I do not, Mr. Editor, pretend to understand the political economy of soap and candles, but I do know that I cannot live, unless I am only a plain sort of body, carrying on the washing business to maintain my family in honesty and decency. Why the soap and candle makers, and particularly those with to increase the price of their goods, should be so anxious to get the public living to their poorer fellow-creatures, I cannot imagine. I assure you, Mr. Editor, that since poor dear Siddy's death I have not been strong enough for a living, without having to pay a higher price for soap and candles than Mr. Allen's people. I have talked the matter over with my friend Mrs. Scrabble, and she is in a great passion with these people who are protectionists. Protection is a very good thing, but it is not the business of a Council—that is not Christian; it is the business of a man—you would be done by—and my opinion of the matter is that if any of these protection gentlemen come in her way, she will leave them with a good deal of her tongue in their mouths, and if her frontispiece, that all their soap will not wash out, I do decay their lives (if they have any) which they don't deserve (if they would) enough, and I will pay the bill, and I will succeed in raising the price of soap. Soap, Mr. Editor, consider one of the necessities of life, and I will suppose that the protectionists are clearly decent people. As for the soap and candle makers, I will suppose that they are clean shirt again, or to be allowed to shave or wash themselves, although this, I suppose, would be no punishment to them—they are barbarians. As for the soap and candle makers, I will suppose that they are the protectionists, as declared by the advertisement, whose proper residence would be the retirement of Tarban Creek, and she says that people labouring under delusions are frequently taken into custody for the purpose of being sent to the lunatic asylum, and she is the police about—where is Dr. Macgrawinger? Is he certy that they are unsafe to be at large? I am almost inclined to think Mrs. Macgrawinger is right, and I recollect that insane people are generally very inattentive to the point of cleanliness that they go for days and weeks without washing their faces, and—and this may account for their being sent to put a duty on soap. I hope that it was not of hydrophobia. But, Mr. Editor, to be serious, if I, Sir, am a capitalist—yes, a capitalist, a woman and capitalist—a very small one, it is true, but still a capitalist. Poor dear Siddy in his lifetime got his money by the industry and frugality of his wife, and he put these three hundred pounds which he put in the Savings Bank, where he died this day, and the interest of it he designed to enable me to eke out a living for myself and little ones. Now, Sir, I find, in poor dear Siddy's time, the Savings Bank paid me four per cent. interest, and now, but some time back it fell to only two or three per cent., and as I was very much concerned to know the reason of this, I inquired the cause, and was told that the Government had increased the rate of interest on the colony—there was that, and the influx of capital into the colony had increased the rate of interest, and the other bank started, and all wanted to lend their money, this, of course, reduced the rate of interest, and I had to suffer for it. Now it would be quite as reasonable for the Government to attempt to introduce foreign capital as for others to attempt to introduce foreign soap and candles—but a law to prevent the bringing of money into the colony even these protectionists would most likely see the absurdity of it, and would not be so much absurd and not have so wicked as a tax on the soap and candles. I am, Mr. Editor, that I am encroaching on your space and entering on subjects that washerwomen are not supposed to understand.

SARAH SUDDS.

P.S. Dear Mr. Editor, I hope you will excuse the question, but how are you off for soap? If the should put a duty on it, I have a few boxes of best Lion brand which I will spare you at prime cost; also some cotton dyes, long ones.

S. S.

THE APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES.

To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald.

Sir,—As we have now responsible Government, and as it appears to be already reached extremes, and is likely to do so again, we would suggest to the Government, if the appointment and dismissal of Magistrates were vested in the hands of the Chief Justice; he not mixing himself up in politics, could have no party interest, and would be more likely to transfer to the full bench a knowledge of any some one of them recommended for the magisterial office; and that certain questions should be answered, and that recommending individuals by the different benches, and that the general public, who are competent by education and general knowledge, should have happened as magistrates have been hardly able to sign their names, when, perhaps, they would have heard evidence, they might give proper decisions, and might be dealing with other justices of the peace, yet, when acting alone would be totally unfit to conduct proceedings.

I have alluded to this, in some imagine that nothing more could be said, but plain common sense, which is easily refuted by the stress laid upon the education of lawyers.

It appears to me, by the present system, that the Government refusing to appoint those recommended by the public, and to appoint improperly so by local influence, or otherwise, or nominating those who are not fit to sit up a hornet's nest for themselves, or on the other

week. The recent arrivals in Sydney and the large stocks on hand, combined with the improbability of a further rise, have caused a dulness in the flour market. Inquiries for purchases

[illegible]

AT ATTRACTIVE UNRESERVED

The Cargo of the **Printhe Oscar**, from **ANTWERP**!!!
 Being the last and only shipment to arrive for some
 time, in consequence of the Baltic being closed up
 during the winter season. Now Landing, at **Wharf**
Merry, and Co's Warehouse, comprising,
AND UNCUT GENUINE RED BALTIC
DEALS
 by shipment now in the Market, inspection of which
 is particularly invited prior to day of sale.
 Crown Windows Glass
 Roll Sheet Lead, No. 7 to 13
 Patent Sliding Tiles
 Limbs and Nails for ditto
 Fencing Wire, No. 1 to 18
 Marble Flooring

Fire Bricks
Stockholm Pitch
Galvanised Sheet Iron &c., &c.
Important to Timber Merchants, Builders, Car-
penters, Architects, Plumbers, Painters, Car-
penters, Ship Chandlers, &c. &c.
The auctioneers most particularly invite the especial
attention of buyers to the above shipment, just arrived
in excellent condition, now discharging at With-
erry, and Co's Wharf near Fort-street, where the
goods will be on view prior to the day of sale.

OWDEN and THRELKELD have been
favoured with instructions from W.

The
Labour
at 300
The

WILLIAM H. BANNER, and Co., to sell by auction, at
WILLIAM H. BANNER, and Co., to sell by auction, at
THURSDAY, the 8th instant, at half-past 3 o'clock
entire cargo of timber and general merchandise, ex
Prinds Oscar, now landing,
Genuine RED BALTIC DEALS, comprising
TWO CUT RED BALTIC DEALS, 2 x 11
1,000 Deals, two cuts, 3 x 3, 14, 15, and 16 feet,
3 x 9
ONE CUT RED BALTIC DEALS,
300 Deals, 15 feet long, two cuts, 3 x 9
TWO CUT RED BALTIC DEALS, 3 x 9
250 Deals, 15 feet long, two cuts, 3 x 9
UNCUT RED BALTIC DEALS, 3 x 8

100,000 feet 1 1/2 inch tongued and grooved flooring boards.
 GENERAL CARC.
 400 cases cork window shades, 10 x 10 to 34 x 38
 27 rolls sheet lead, No. 7 to 13
 100,000 marble flooring tiles, 24 x 24 to 36 x 36, admirably suited for banks, insurance offices, etc.
 100,000 feet 1 1/2 inch tongued and grooved flooring boards.
 GENERAL CARC.
 400 cases cork window shades, 10 x 10 to 34 x 38
 27 rolls sheet lead, No. 7 to 13
 100,000 marble flooring tiles, 24 x 24 to 36 x 36, admirably suited for banks, insurance offices, etc.

perme building		
2,000 patent roofing tiles		97
247 bundles laths for ditto		98
10 barrels nails for ditto		98
110 bundles fencing wire, No. 1 to 18		98
50 barrels Stockholm pitch		98
2,000 fire bricks		95
Galvanized iron, &c., &c.		95
Terms, liberal, at sale.		
To Paperhangers, Painters, Builders, &c.		97
see choice English Paperhangings, just landed, from		98
celebrated makers Heywood, Smith, and Co., London.		99
OWDEN and THRELKELD have re-		100
ceived instructions from the		101

at the City Mart, 311, George-st. to	109
DAY, the 4th May, at 11 o'clock.	109
cases choice English paperhangings, just arrived, in	109
excellent condition.	109
Terms at sale.	109
arrant to Ironmongers, Cutlery, Country Storehouses,	109
do. do.	109
Steelbards	109
Wrenches, Hatchets, Cattle Bells, Saws, Scythes,	109
Hay, Knives, Locks, Gentlemen's Dressing Case,	109
do. do. do.	109
OWDEN and THRELKELD have re-	111
ceived instructions to sell by auction, at the	111
City Mart, 311, George-st.	111

at 11 o'clock,
-16-
Invoice of ironmongery, comprising
Screwdrivers
Splitters
Braces and bits
Coach wrenches
Curry combs
Oval trays
Box rules
Files
Handsaws
Gridirons
Scythes
Sawdust

Stock locks, fill locks
Him locks, plate locks
Mortice locks, padlocks
Bolts, Norfolk latches
Picnic cases
3, containing
3 double barreled guns
1 single ditto
1 rifle, twisted barrel
3 six-barrel revolvers
3, containing
Pocket knives, butchers' knives, scissors
Table knives and forks, razors, etc., etc.
Terms at sale.

Hollowware
TUESDAY, 4th May.
OWDEN and THRELKELD have received
instructions to sell by auction, **THIS DAY**,
at 11 o'clock, at the City Mart,
a hoghead hollowware—
Saucerpan, Nos. 1 to 6
Oval basins, 24, 3 gallons.
Hollowed tinware, made to the colonial pattern,
is—
Hollowed basins
Camp Kettles
Stable lanterns
Bread tins, kettles
The
valuable stock
of metal ex-
posed at the

Milk dishes, baking dishes
Flowed basins
Flop pails
Zinc buckets
Slop pails, &c., &c.

Terms at sale.

Painters, Glaziers, Oil and Coloursmen, &c., &c., &c.

OWDEN and THRELKELD have re-
ceived instructions to sell by auction, at the
Mart, 211, George-street, **THIS DAY**, is
assant, at 11 o'clock,
involved comprising
Linnseed oil, bottled and raw

Paints
Turps
Paper-hangings, &c.
Terms at sale.

At the risk of the former Purchaser.
FIVE DOCK BAY.
By order of the Mortgagee.
Cottage and Grounds.

OWDEN and THRELKELD have received
instructions to sell by public auction, on
THURSDAY, the 7th May, at their Auction Room, in
Leeds, at 11 o'clock, a well-situated, and
weather boarded cottage, shingled, of two rooms,
with back kitchen, with about 1/2 acre of land cleared
and ready for the plough.

The title
To Propose

MUR

a garden, and planted with a variety of trees and vines.

The situation is delightful, being at the head of the Bay, to which there is access by an excellent road and the great Northern Road, running through the Estate. The distance from the cottage to the wharf is about a mile by a good road, and to the Wharf of the Kipahiki, by water, the same; and to both places the steamers, to and from Sydney, pass in full view.

The neighbouring lands are disposed of to a number of enterprising gentlemen freeholders.

Further particulars may be had from the Auctioneer.

Title, guaranteed.

Terms at sale.

Preliminary.
 Important Unreserved Sale of Wines, Spirits, Ale, Porter
 Cordials, &c., &c., &c., comprising
 Martell's Brandy
 French ditto
 Champagne
 Whisky, Old Tom, Geneva, &c.
 London Albion
 Byass' Ale and Porter
 English Draught Ale
 OWDEN and TIERKELD have re-
 ceived instructions from the importers to sell
 at public auction, at the City Mart, on TUESDAY next, the 10th
 inst. at 11 o'clock.

Small Farm of 13 Acres 2 Roads, Liverpool Road, OWDEN and TAREKELD will sell by auction, at the City Mart, 211, George-street, THURSDAY, the 7th May, at 11 o'clock, a small farm of 13 acres 2 roads, situated on the Liverpool Road, near Lansdown Bridge, on the right hand side, a little on the Rythe side of Bridle's Inn, bounded on the one side by Lever's land. It will be sold, at the same time, 6 acres and 2 roods, nearer to Bridle's Inn, on the right-hand side of the road going to Liverpool, and nearer to the Rythe on the

of the Day-trip Road with the ~~high~~ ^{high} ground before descending to Lakeside Bridge.
This land is abundantly timbered with the hem-
lock.

Terms at sale.

